

Youth Advisory Board Minutes
January 07, 2016

Members present were: Barbara Ruhe, Ken Lesser, Colleen Keane, Rachel Bahouth, and Chris Healy.
Also present were: Anthony Spinella – Town Council Liason, Rachael Sunny-Youth Development Manager, Erica Teixeira-Assistant Director of Social and Youth Services, Katie Mezick-Social and Youth Services Intern, and Kathy Bagley-Director of Social and Youth Services.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM Chairperson Barbara Ruhe.

Approval of December 10th 2015 Minutes:

- Ken Lesser made a motion to accept the minutes and Colleen Keane seconded. All approved.

Financial Report:

- The account balance is \$7,043.02. No changes. It was mentioned that the financial report be on all agendas and minutes.

Youth Services Report:

- Friday Night Hang Out
 - Will begin winter session at the end of January. A possibility is to have a combined group for both 7th and 8th graders in upcoming sessions.
- a.s.A.p. (formally Crossroads) - Winter session will begin in January. Youth services will offer some new selections in the upcoming sessions.
- Intramurals at the Middle School - Winter intramurals will start in January. Looking to slightly change the sign up option/method for youth but will keep it to 80 youth that are able to registered.
 - Police and Youth Grant- Continue to meet with positive interactions with youth and local law enforcement.
 - Juvenile Review Board is staying very active with cases.
 - Youth Services will be conducting a Needs Assessment with grades 7-12 in the spring of 2016. The CASAC grant will financially sponsor the survey.

Old Business:

- **Hunger Action Team – update**
 - Erica Texeira/Ken Lesser gave an update - The third Hunger Action Team Meeting was held on December 13th and was attended by over 20 community members. Continuing energy from the group. They will be forming sub-committees at next meeting as well as take a tour of the Food Bank and storage areas. The next meeting will be held on Friday January 8th @ 1:30pm Town Hall
- **Mentoring Program**
 - Group mentioned that they enjoyed the presentation from the Governor Prevention Partnership and will move forward with the mentoring sub-committee to continue the discussion.

New Business:

- **Youth Advisory Board Vacancies**

- o The board has vacant slots and looking to fill them. Members discussed ideas regarding recruitment. Ryan Berasi (Wethersfield middle school youth) submitted his resume to Anthony Spinella (Council Member). Ken Lesser made a motion to appoint Ryan Berasi for the youth member position, Colleen Keane seconded, all are in favor. Also, Pam Harrison (Wethersfield Resident and High School Psychologist) continues interest in membership. Ken Lesser reported that the democratic party put forward an appointment of David Zagaja's as a potential member.

- **Sub-committee to plan annual recognition event/YAB IT scholarship-** The board supported the idea of a sub-committee and they held the first meeting tonight. The event will be held on Tuesday April 5th at 7pm – Community Center. The group consisted of Rachael Sunny, Kathy Bagley, Ken Lesser, Colleen Keane, Rachel Bahouth, and Anthony Spinella. Other YAB members are welcome to join. The group discussed plans for applications, invitations, criteria, and party supplies for the event. The sub-committee will continue to meet and discuss.
- **Sub-committee to fundraise for camp scholarships** – Social and Youth Services offers help with camps to families that are in need. Each youth that qualifies can receive up to \$200 for one camp session. Currently the donated fund is extremely low. The board continues to support the idea of the sub-committee and they held the first meeting tonight. Other YAB members are welcome to join. The group consisted of Erica, Katie, Chris, and Barbara. The group discussed a number of ideas to raise money by June of this year. The group will research different organizations in town to sponsor. Some ideas mentioned - Go Fund Me account (crowd funding) and holding a possible kick-ball tournament. The group will come to the next YAB meeting with follow up research that they will report on.

At 8:30pm Chris Healy made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ken Lesser .

Next meeting is February 4th, 2016, at 7:00 PM Town Hall, Lower Level, and Conference Room #1.

Respectfully submitted:

Erica Texeira